

Filed for intro on 11/10/1999

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27 of the Second Extraordinary Session
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 126th Birthday Anniversary of
W.C. Handy.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the Tennessee General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor past and present citizens of this great state whose lives have had an impact on the world; and

WHEREAS, W.C. Handy is one such individual, whose talent made an indelible mark on the music community; and

WHEREAS, William Christopher ("W.C.") Handy was born on November 16, 1873, in the small town of Florence, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, although called "The Father of the Blues," Handy did not create the blues form of music. He was the first person to use the term "blues" in a title; and

WHEREAS, the song "Memphis Blues," published in 1912, was originally written as a campaign song for E.H. "Boss" Crump; and

WHEREAS, as a songwriter, band leader, and publisher, W.C. Handy became synonymous with the blues, and his promotion helped blues music become a part of the American vernacular; and

WHEREAS, each year, Memphis celebrates the anniversary of W.C. Handy's birthday; and

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WHEREAS, this year, the blues great's birthday anniversary will be celebrated from November 13-16, 1999 on Beale Street; and

WHEREAS, festival activities will include high school bands, featuring "Kids and Blues," as well as members of the W.C. Handy family as special guests; and

WHEREAS, one highlight of the celebration will be the W.C. Handy Heritage Awards. These awards, the blues equivalent of the Grammys, will be presented to "Authentic Beale Street Musicians and Entertainers" on Sunday, November 14, 1999 at the National Civil Rights Museum; and

WHEREAS, as part of the awards ceremony, the public will have an opportunity to view the exhibit "Beale Street, Business & Blues" which is a special correlation of the lives of Mr. W.C. Handy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, after the anniversary celebration, the exhibit will then be showcased at the Willis Gallery, 156 Beale Street in Memphis, from November 16, 1999 until March 2000; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the W.C. Handy Heritage Awards include: Mose Vinson, James Shinnie Walker, Clarence Render, Earl Forest, Anita Tucker, Novell Campell, Bertina Conway, David Newborne, Dan Greer, Earl Randle and Irvin Reason. Posthumous awards will be given in memory of Robert McGhee and Moses Lynam; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to join in celebrating the 126th Anniversary of Mr. W.C. Handy's birthday, recognizing his vast contributions to the world of music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.